

Area attorneys bothered by security measures

By RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

For the cost of \$40,000 in equipment and 21 additional sheriff's deputies, Oakland County began screening visitors to the county building Monday with metal detectors.

Although there has been no single crisis in the courthouse to precipitate such action, several incidents over the last 10 years have given officials reason to worry, county Clerk Lynn Allen said.

Allen, whose office provides administration service to the circuit court, can remember two instances where attorneys were caught with handguns in courtrooms.

One attorney dropped his briefcase, a gun fell out, went off and holed the courtroom ceiling. Another attorney's gun fell out of a briefcase and onto the floor. The attorney's client, Allen said, picked up the piece and returned it to his counselor.

Allen remembers one other incident when a distraught man who had just left the courthouse took a gun from his car and killed himself in the parking lot.

More recently, officers intercepted a death threat to a judge. Happenings such as these led the county commission to believe, Allen said, that restricted access to the county building on Telegraph Road through metal detectors was prudent.

How inconvenient

"We know it's inconvenient," Allen said. "(But) it's been a necessary program for a long time."

He certainly wasn't wrong about the inconvenience. Perhaps 100 people were lined up at the main entrance Tuesday morning

COUNTY

waiting their turn to be electronically frisked.

Sheriff's deputies also opened purses and briefcases, rummaging around inside to see if anyone was packing a weapon.

Also, visitors are asked to dump jack knives and other "weapons" in a box near the detectors. The alternative is to take the knife back to your car, then rejoin the queue.

Most of the people contacted by The Observer & Eccentric Tuesday didn't mind the inconvenience, but the Oakland County Bar Association is ticked off.

President Edward Gold asked chief Judge Richard Kuhn to let attorneys skip the detectors, but Kuhn wouldn't hear of it.

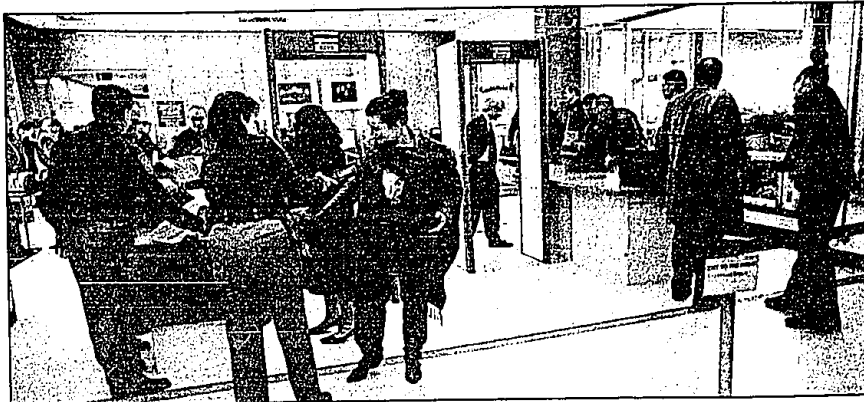
No can do

"The message we are getting is that lawyers, who are officers of the court, are not trustworthy," Gold said. "We do not understand why lawyers are being required to stand in line each and every day, to pass through metal detectors and be forced to submit their belongings to these security measures."

Troy attorney Donald Williams doesn't like the situation much either. "I don't think I've ever seen anything that would justify this kind of security," he said. "As an attorney, I'm not afraid. Now maybe the judges are."

Another attorney, who declined to give his name, said, "I guess I figured Oakland County was too civilized for that sort of (security)."

Other courthouse visitors seemed more accepting of the ad-



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Safer courthouse: Oakland County Sheriff deputies usher people through the new metal detector security system that everyone now must pass through at the county court complex.

ditional security. "It feels safer," said Robert Larson of Keego Harbor. "It's not a big problem" to submit to the detectors.

X-rays could help

Sheriff's department Lt. Damon Shields, who supervises the courthouse deputies, said that "the majority of the public has been patient with us. It's a lot better than we anticipated."

Shields expects to get an X-ray

machine to examine briefcases and handbags, but one hasn't been ordered yet. "Without the X-ray machine, it's very labor intensive," he said.

That's a big part of the reason why they need 21 deputies to operate the system now. However, 19 of the new deputies are part-time, Shields said, meaning they don't get insurance. Therefore, two part-timers cost county taxpayers less than one full-time

deputy does.

Shields said the extra expense to taxpayers is worth it. "We just

want to deter people from even thinking about bringing a weapon into court," he said.

WINTER IS COMING!



Winter Walden Ski Club

- Charter buses Saturday & Sunday to nearby slopes
- Classes for all skill levels beginner to expert
- Special Program for the younger skiers (ages 7-8)
- Professional Instruction
- Small Classes

Teaching KIDS to Ski is our Business



Call Harvey Rubenstein Today!

855-1075

Fall 1992 Suit Sale
40% - 60% off
ALL SEASONAL GOODS
• Name Brands

100% Wool Sharkskin
by Bilari (styled in Italy)
Was \$375.00
NOW \$187.50

Executive Menswear at the smart businessman's price.
Do you want to be "That Guy?"

THAT GUY
(313) 588-8330

El Bar SHOE OUTLETS **FAMOUS BRANDS FOR LESS**

ENTIRE STOCK 2nd pair

HURRY IN FOR THE BEST SELECTION! **1/2** **STARTS TODAY!**

price SALE

first pair regular price, second pair 1/2 price

famous name dress and casual shoes for men and women, plus all handbags and accessories

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Buy any pair of shoes or any accessory at our regular low price and pay only half price for a second pair of shoes or second accessory of equal or lesser value! Mix or match men's and women's styles. Buy as many as you like. It's a sale too good to miss.

Now thru Thursday, December 24. Keds CVO extend not included.

WE ACCEPT MASTERCARD ■ VISA ■ DISCOVER ■ ELDER-BEERMAN CHARGES

■ HAMILTON CROSSING SHOPPING CENTER 2717 South Rochester Rd., Rochester, MI 48306
 ■ BLOOMFIELD TOWNE SQUARE 2105 Telegraph Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
 ■ BURLINGTON SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER 22283 Eureka Rd., (across from Southland Mall) Farmington Hills, MI 48334
 ■ WEST OAKS SHOPPING CENTER 4348 West Oak Dr. (across from Twelve Oaks Mall) Westland, MI 48186
 ■ WESTLAND CROSSINGS SHOPPING CENTER 26000 Westland Ave. (across from Westland Mall) Westland, MI 48186
 ■ UNIVERSITY MALL 2875 Woodward Road Dearborn, MI 48124

Michigan Ballet Theatre presents the **NUTCRACKER BALLET**

with the **BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

West Bloomfield High School

Fri., Dec. 11th - 8:00 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 12th - 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 13th - 2:00 p.m.

for more information and TICKETS call **471-4180 OR 788-1185**

Experience the magic!

Before Radial Keratotomy

After Radial Keratotomy

Clearly, the Michigan Eyecare Institute can make a difference

As founders of the Michigan Eyecare Institute, Dr. William Myers and Dr. Mark Rubinstein have been at the forefront of ophthalmologic breakthroughs. Dr. Myers was the second ophthalmologist in the U.S. to perform radial keratotomy — the breakthrough procedure to correct nearsightedness. The Michigan Eyecare Institute was also where the first Excimer laser was located in Michigan. For more information, or to schedule a free screening, call us at 1-800-248-4643.

SOUTHFIELD: 28877 Telegraph, Suite 100 352-2000
LIVONIA: 14555 Livon, Suite E-101 464-7800
DEARBORN: 5050 Schaefer 582-7440
DETROIT: Fisher Building Suite 674 872-2626

MICHIGAN EYECARE INSTITUTE. LEADING EYECARE WITH A VISION.